regulations. Some of the affected taxi drivers have contested this and have approached the British Commission for Racial Equality for redressal.

As far as local licensing & regulations are concerned, this is the sole prerogative of the concerned British authorities.

Economic Relations with Republic of South Africa

7684. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to forge special economic relations with the Republic of South Africa; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) Trade and economic relations were resumed with South Africa in October, 1993. With the formation of a new multi-racial, democratic Government in South Africa, there is considerable interest among Indian business and trading circles to forge close economic links with that country. There is a strong potential for bilateral economic cooperation particularly in the fields of small scale industries, low-cost housing, technical training and pharmaceuticals.

US Ambassador's Threat to India on "Prithvi" Missile

7685. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Frank Wisner, the U.S. Ambassador-designate to India has threatened India that induction of missile "Prithvi" will leave worse results; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government in this regard stating the clear stand of the Government on Missile programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) In response to a question during the course of his confirmation hearings before the Near East and South Asia Sub-Committee of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, US Ambassador-designate to India Mr. Frank Wisner stated that Prithvi was an indigenously produced missile of short range which was not, so far as he knew, configured for nuclear warhead. Wisner added that the US position was that India should consider the consequences of missile deployments when tensions were already high. He said that the Prithvi had not yet been deployed and hoped that Government of India would not undertake deployment.

The US State Department issued a clarification on 31 May, 1994 that Ambassador Wisner was reiterating the long-standing position of the United States which had been addressed in bilateral consultations with both India and Pakistan.

(b) Government remain committed to a policy of determining the course of India's missile programme on the basis of India's national security requirements.

US Efforts to Supply F-16 Planes to Pakistan

7686. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether US efforts to find a way to supply F-16 planes to Pakistan has again put pressure on Indian defence system;